inorganic salt comprises calcium ion.

6. The associated complex of any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein said inorganic salt is calcium chloride.

7. The associated complex of any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the molar ratio of said inorganic salt to said α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose is about one.

8. The associated complex of claim 3, wherein said inorganic salt comprises one or more cations selected from the group consisting of magnesium ion, strontium ion, copper ion, ferrous ion, manganese ion, and nickel ion.

9. A crystalline associated complex of any one of claims 1 to 8.

10. The crystalline associated complex of claim 9, which is formed from α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose and calcium chloride.

11. The crystalline associated complex of claim 10, wherein the molar ratio of said calcium chloride to said α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose is about one.

12. A crystalline associated complex of α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose and calcium chloride, which has main diffraction angles (2θ) of 12.6°, 19.8°, 21.3°, and 22.0° on powdery X-ray diffraction analysis.

13. A process for producing an associated complex of α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose and a metal ion compound, which comprises the steps of:

forming an associated complex of α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose and a metal ion compound by mixing said α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose with said metal ion compound; and

collecting the resulting associated complex.

14. The process of claim 13, wherein said α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose and said metal ion compound are mixed in a solution.

15. The process of claim 13 or 14, wherein said metal ion compound is calcium salt.

16. The process of claim 15, wherein said calcium salt is calcium chloride.

17. The process of any one of claims 13 to 16, which comprises the steps of:

crystallizing said associated complex from a solution; and

collecting the resulting crystal.

18. A method for forming an associated complex of α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose and a metal ion compound by mixing said α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose with said metal ion compound.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose and said metal ion compound are mixed in a solution.

20. The method of claim 18 or 19, wherein said metal ion compound is calcium salt.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said calcium salt is calcium chloride.

22. A composition comprising the associated complex of any one of claims 1 to 8.

23. A composition comprising the crystalline associated complex of any one of claims 9 to 12.

24. The composition of claim 22 or 23, which is a food, cosmetic, or pharmaceutical.

25. The composition of any one of claims 22 to 24, wherein said composition is a member selected from the group consisting of mineral-extender, mineral-supplying agent, taste-improving agent, bean

curd (*tofu*)-coagulating agent, moisture-retaining agent, nutritional supplement for plants, activating agent for plants, and allergic reaction-inhibiting agent.

26. An agent comprising α-glycosyl α,α-trehalose as an effective ingredient, selected from the group consisting of an unpleasant-taste suppressing agent, deliquescence-suppressing agent, crystallization-suppressing agent for hardly water-soluble or water-insoluble substance, adhesion-suppressing agent, solubility-improving agent, cleaning agent, bed-bath agent, and oxidation-reduction suppressing agent, for metal ion compounds or products comprising the same.